

Last month the JOURNAL published a short note on the correspondence relative to the claim of lack of proper recognition of his aid by Mr. J. C. Smith, of New Orleans. The whole matter is rather muddled, but it appears that there was an effort made by one or two men connected with the Yellow Fever Institute of the P. H. and M. H. Service to omit any recognition of Mr. Smith in their published report. This should not be regarded as a slight upon the Service, for a better body of men does not exist than the gentlemen of this Service. But now the question is still more muddled, for Dr. Carrol has stated his belief that the organism found by the Institute, and claimed by Mr. Smith as his very own, is really nothing more nor less than a yeast organism, and has nothing to do with the causation of yellow fever. If that be the case, what becomes of the contention of Mr. Smith, and should he then have just ground for complaint, or should Working Party No. 1 abuse him for being led astray by the Smith false gods? Or should Working Party No. 1 first apologize to Mr. Smith, and then Mr. Smith offer his excuses to Working Party No. 1? In either event, what causes yellow fever? And further, what is the poor muddled critic to say? It is to be hoped that all connected will immediately become very busy and clear things up a little.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

A very important portion of the proposed Constitution is that contained in Article III, Section 5, published last month and to be found on page 417, December JOURNAL. The adoption of this section will mean that all "members at large" and "permanent" members will have to join a component county society within one year. It is simply carrying out in full the spirit of reorganization. The State Society is to be made up of those who compose the various county societies, and is, in fact, to be an association of county societies. The Board of Trustees, acting under instructions from the House of Delegates at the last meeting, has referred this matter to an attorney and has received his opinion as to the legality of the step proposed. In the attorney's opinion the Society has the legal right to adopt this section and thus compel its members to become members of component societies, if they do not already hold such membership. There can be no special legislation, so this ruling must apply to permanent members. At the present time, however, there are but four members of this class who are not also members of county societies. It is hardly fair to the other 1,400 to hold up the matter of organization simply on account of four.

Another section in question is Section 6, Article I of the By-Laws, printed on page 418, in the last issue. This section introduces honorary members. Shall there be any such? Is not an honorary membership a purely empty honor? We have no members of this class, at the present time, and it is not likely that we will have. Is it not better to leave out this section, and to have no members at all save those who are members of county societies? This section is taken from the present By-Laws and is given in the draft suggested, not because the committee thinks it desirable to retain the provision, but because some members may have further ideas on the subject.

Under the present Constitution and By-Laws the Trustees fix the amount of the annual assessment upon county societies. The suggested document places that duty upon the House of Delegates. The probable expenses for any year may be approximately estimated by the Council at the time of the annual meeting, and the House of Delegates be advised of the estimated budget. The Delegates can then fix the amount which they are to assess their county societies.

Article V, dealing with the Council, is an exceedingly important one and has been given long and careful consideration. The publications of the Society have grown, even in one year, to be a large and important business. They can be built up far beyond their present status, and without cost to the Society. But all this means a vast increase in the amount of business detail, and the present arrangement for transacting such business is not at all convenient. It would be satisfactory if the Society was not doing any more than it has in past years, but the JOURNAL and the Register are by no means small undertakings. The growth of the JOURNAL and the added work entailed by the publication of the Register have caused a great deal of work to pass through the publication office. In addition to the regular work attached to the publications the Editor has been asked to energetically prosecute the work of organization of county societies, and necessarily that entails more detail. As a result, all of the petty cash transactions are settled from the JOURNAL income, and must subsequently be adjusted by the cumbersome process of, (1) a resolution of the Trustees, (2) notice to the Secretary, (3) a warrant drawn by the Secretary, which is (4) then sent to Los Angeles for the signature of the President, and then (5) forwarded to the Treasurer. At the lowest, this consumes ten days. A large business cannot well be built up or maintained on such a cumbersome foundation. Consequently, in the document submitted, all the business of the publication office is placed in the hands of an Editor (under bonds) and would be protected by a system of vouchers and warrants, under the supervision of an auditing committee